IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method, executed by a node on a network, said node comprising at least one asset, of transmitting asset-management information about the node, the method comprising:

(a) determining a current address value of a network interface card of the node, referred to as a NIC address value;

(b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former NIC address value for the node; and

(c) transmitting asset-management information concerning the node together with the current NIC address value and the former NIC address value.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the current NIC address value includes an attempt to detect the then-current NIC address value.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the attempt to detect the then-current NIC address value is unsuccessful, and further comprising (i) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a stored value containing the result of the past live detection of the then-current NIC address value, referred to as a previously-detected NIC address value; and (ii) transmitting the previously-detected NIC address value.

4. (previously canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the former NIC address value is redundantly stored in multiple partitions within the data storage at the node.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein (x) each copy of the former NIC address value is associated with a timestamp, and (y) retrieving the former NIC address value comprises retrieving the respective copy associated with the most recent timestamp.

8. (previously presented) A method, executed by a server node on a network, for recording, in a database, asset-management information about a client node, comprising:

(a) retrieving, from the client node, (1) asset-management information about the client node, (2) a current address value of a network interface card of the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value and (3) a former NIC address value for the client node that is equal to the current NIC address value;

(b) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the current NIC address value;

(c) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the former NIC address value; and

(d) storing the asset-management information, the current NIC address value, and the former NIC address value in a record in the database associated with the current NIC address value.

9. (previously canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

11. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the ~~client~~ node of a specified one of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 7, and 21 through ~~24~~ 23, and encoding a program of instructions including instructions for performing the operations recited in the specified claim as being performed by the ~~client~~ node.

12. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a processor in the server node of a specified one of claims 8, 10, and 24 and encoding a program of instructions including instructions for performing the operations recited in said specified claim as being performed by the server node.

13. (currently amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising a machine-readable data structure accessible to a processor in the node and containing node-identification information for the ~~client~~ node that includes (i) a current network interface card value for the node, referred to as a NIC address value, and (ii) a former NIC address value.

14. (previously canceled)

15. The data store of claim 13, wherein the NIC address value that constitutes the current node-identifier value includes a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

16. (currently amended) In a node on a network, a data store comprising:

(a) a plurality of machine-readable data structures accessible to a processor in the node;

(b) each said data structure containing node-identification information for the ~~client~~ node that includes (i) a current node-identifier value, and (ii) a former node-identifier value, each said value comprising a network interface card address value, referred to as a NIC address value;

(c) each said data structure being associated with a timestamp.

17. (previously canceled)

18. (previously presented) The data store of claim 16, wherein the NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

19. (previously presented) In a server node on a network, that includes a client node, a machine-readable data structure accessible to a processor in the server node, comprising (i) a current value of a network interface card address for the client node, referred to as a current NIC address value for the client node, (ii) a former NIC address value for the client node, and (iii) asset-management information about the client node.

20. (original) The machine-readable data structure of claim 19, wherein the current NIC address value comprises a signature portion and a pseudorandomly generated portion.

21. (previously presented) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting asset-management information about the node, the method comprising:

(a) determining a current node identifier value, where (1) the node identifier value for any particular node in the network is dependent upon one or more node-identification attributes of that node including an address value of a network interface card in the node, referred to as a NIC address value, and (2) determining the current node identifier value includes an attempt to detect the then-current values of said one or more node-identification attributes;

(b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former node identifier value for the node; and

(c) transmitting asset-management information about the node together with the current node-identifier value and the former node identifier value.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the attempt to detect said one or more node-identification attributes fails to detect at least one of said node-identification attributes, and further comprising (i) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a stored value containing the result of a past live detection of the said one or more

node-identification attributes, referred to as a previously-detected node identifier value; and (ii) transmitting the previously-detected node identifier value.

23. (previously presented) A method, executed by a node on a network, of transmitting asset-management information about the node, the method comprising:

(a) attempting but failing to detect a current network interface card address value for the node, referred to as a current NIC address value;

(b) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a previously-detected NIC address value;

(c) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a stored value of a former NIC address value for that node; and

(d) transmitting the asset-management information together with the previously-detected NIC address value and the former NIC address value.

24. (previously presented) A method, executed by a client node and a server node on a network, for recording, in a database, asset-management information about the client node, comprising:

(a) the client node (1) determining a current address value of a network interface card in the node, referred to as a NIC address value, (2) retrieving, from a data storage at the node, a former NIC address value for the node, and (3) transmitting to the server node asset-management information, the current NIC address value, and the former NIC address value;

(b) the server node (1) unsuccessfully attempting to locate, in the database, a record corresponding to the current NIC address value, (2) locating, in the database, a record corresponding to the former NIC address value, (3) recording the asset-management information in said record, and (4) updating the record to correspond to the current NIC address value instead of the former NIC address value.

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